

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04399 070615Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
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UNCLAS CANBERRA 4399

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS EXIMBANK

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TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, BENC, ECRE, EINV, BEXP, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURERS MOBILIZE FOR NORTH WEST SHELF SALES

REF: CANBERRA 02953

1. AUSTRALIAN MANUFACTURERS ARE MOVING TO MAXIMIZE AUSTRALIAN
INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF THE
NORTH WEST SHELF NATURAL GAS PROJECT. SEE REFTEL FOR MAGNITUDE OF
POTENTIAL INVESTMENT IN PLANT AND EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR THE
PROJECT.

2. HEAVY ENGINEERING MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION (HEMA) HAS
ASKED GOA TO ESTABLISH A BUYING OFFICE WITH NORTH WEST
SHELF IN MIND. HEMA SEES THE BUYING OFFICES AS BEING SIMILAR
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TO THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S OFFSHORE BUYING OFFICE, WHICH
ASSISTED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORTH SEA OIL FIELDS.

3. WEST AUSTRALIAN MARINE SERVICES ASSOCIATION (WAMSA)
HAS ASKED THE STATE GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH A MULTI-
PURPOSE SHIPYARD IN THE KWINANA AREA FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF MARINE CRAFT RANGING FROM LARGE FISHING VESSELS TO

BARGES, RIG SUPPLY VESSELS, PRODUCTION PLATFORMS AND MODULES. WAMSA HAS PROPOSED THAT THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SHOULD INVEST DOLS A 7 MILLION IN A SHIPYARD AT JERVOISE BAY, SOUTH OF PERTH. WAMSA HAS A MEMBERSHIP OF 90 COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSMEN INVOLVED MAINLY IN RELATIVELY SMALL-SCALE MARINE ACTIVITIES.

4. THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY ESTABLISHED ITS NATIONAL STANDING COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ON THE NORTH WEST SHELF WITH THE AIM OF ENSURING THAT LOCAL INDUSTRY IS GEARED UP AND KEYED IN TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE NORTH WEST SHELF DEVELOPMENT IF IT PROCEEDS.

5. THE WAMSA AND HEMA INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN CHARACTERIZED AS APPROACHES WHICH CONTAIN AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRIES TYPICAL "BLEND OF VIGOROUS FREE ENTERPRISES DETERMINATION TO HAVE A GO TEMPERED BY AN EVER-OUTSTRACHED HAND SEEKING GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL AND/OR MORAL SUPPORT." IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT GOA OFFICIALS SEE SOME MERIT IN THE INDUSTRY PROPOSALS BUT ARE IN NO POSITION TO ACT ON THE PROPOSALS NOW. THE GOA WILL NOT LIKELY MOVE TOO PRECIPTIOUSLY IN ARRIVING AT SOME DECISION RELATIVE TO ASSISTING AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY THROUGH DIRECT GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION.
SQUIRE

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